President's reply.—You first spoke about the admission of Ezhava boys in to certain schools. Arrangements are already in progress in this matter. Either the schools will be thrown open or they will be removed to convenient sites.

Member.— Our men should also be on the committees constituted for submitting recommendations to throw open schools to all classes of His Highness' subjects.

President.—The matter will be noted.

As regards grant-in-aid schools also, an investigation will be conducted as to whether there are any such schools not open to all classes, and if there are, the necessary action will be taken to remove the disabilities of the communities in that respect.

As regards notice boards prohibiting the free passage of all classes along public roads, I have already given my reply.

143. Abolition of untouchability and removal of boards prohibiting passage through public roads.

Mr. N. R. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) deplored the disabilities to which his community was subjected on account of unapproachability even at the present day and said that, with the spread of education among them and the enjoyment of increased privileges in other directions, those disabilities were being most keenly felt by them. The prohibition imposed upon them in the matter of freely using the public roads opened with the funds in the State treasury, to which his community also contributed, could not be construed in any other light than that of imprisonment. The Member said that the treatment accorded by Europeans to Indian emigrants from India to Kenya would perhaps give some idea of the sufferings of his community. An old Royal Proclamation had declared public roads to be free to all subjects and the springing up of notice boards prohibiting the use of certain roads by certain classes of subjects was not only surprising, but also meaningless. Their condition was the more pitiable, especially when it was remembered that those very roads were open to Mahomedans and Christians. Both Hindus and non-Hindus had urged the removal of such a monstrous disability. The Member suggested the appointment of a committee to enquire into and improve their condition and prayed for the issue of a Proclamation abolishing unapproachability.

President's reply.—As I already replied to a previous speaker, there is no objection to any class of people passing through highways and other public roads. There are, however, certain minor restrictions imposed by custom in a very few localities. Regarding the removal of notice boards, the Dewan has given a reply and I am not in a position to add anything to that reply.

144. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

Mr. Aiyappan Pillai Matevan Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) represented that the Government in as early as 1079 accepted the responsibility for imparting primary education to all boys and girls in the State. From the reply to an interpellation in the Legislative Council it was understood that there were 55 *pakuthies* in the whole State which had no primary schools. The Education Expenditure Committee had suggested in their report that there should be two departmental schools in a revenue *pakuthi*, one for boys and another for girls, and that if private efforts were not forthcoming, Government should step in and open schools. If that recommendation of the committee was to be acted upon by the Government, many schools would have to be opened in the *pakuthies* of the Kalkulam taluk. There were no departmental schools either for boys or girls in the *pakuthies* of Kadiyapattanam, Kappiyara and Mekkode. In the Kotanallur *pakuthi* there was only one departmental school for girls and the building in which it was located had been constructed out of funds jointly contributed by the people and the Government. The site for another building for a boys' school had already been purchased and the foundation laid. As the people were not in a position to raise funds to complete the building, both the boys and girls of the village had now to be educated in the girls' school. If the Government could not complete the building for the local boys' school, the building in which the girls' school was housed might be placed at the

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